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SENATE

REPORT
99-254

BASSAM S. BELMANY

MARCH 5 (legislative day, FEBRUARY 24), 1986.—Ordered to be printed

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Mr. THURMOND, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following

MAR 25 1986

REPORT

U. S. GOVT. PUBS.
DEPOSITORY 378

[To accompany S. 832]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to which was referred the bill (S. 832) for the relief of Bassam S. Belmany, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of the bill is to grant the status of permanent residence in the United States to Bassam S. Belmany. The bill provides for the payment of the required visa fee and for an appropriate visa number deduction.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The beneficiary of the bill is a 25-year-old native and citizen of Lebanon who originally entered the U.S. on a student visa. He attended Spring Hill College in Mobile with scholarship assistance and is now in post-graduate work at the University of South Alabama in Mobile. He currently lives with his uncle, Bob Belmany. Bassam is a member of the Druze religion and if he attempts to return to his home village of Chanay, he would face certain death.

A letter, with attached memorandum, dated May 29, 1984, to the Chairman of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary from the Immigration and Naturalization Service with reference to the bill, reads as follows:

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE,
Washington, D.C., May 29, 1984.

A26-580-765

HON. STROM THURMOND,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: In response to your request for a report relative to the bill (S. 796) for the relief of Bassam S. Belmany, there is attached a memorandum of information concerning the beneficiary.

The bill would waive the provision of the Immigration and Nationality Act relating to labor certification and would grant the beneficiary permanent residence in the United States as of the date of its enactment, upon payment of the required visa fee. It would also direct that a visa number deduction be made.

The beneficiary, a native of Lebanon, is chargeable to the non-preference portion of the numerical limitation for immigrants.

Sincerely,
For the Commissioner:

MARVIN P. ELY
(For Greg Leo,
Director, Congressional and Public Affairs).

Enclosure.

MEMORANDUM OF INFORMATION FROM IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE FILES RE: S. 796

The beneficiary, whose name is spelled Bassam S. Belmany, is a native and citizen of Lebanon, born November 20, 1960. He presently resides in Mobile, Alabama with an uncle, J. Robert Belmany, the interested party.

The beneficiary states he is not presently employed, but was previously employed as a laboratory assistant at Spring Hill College, Mobile, Alabama while a student there. He graduated from Spring Hill College in 1983 with a bachelor of science degree and is presently attending the University of South Alabama, Mobile, Alabama studying toward a master of science degree. He lists no income or liabilities and claims assets consisting of personal property valued at approximately $1,200. The beneficiary is totally supported by the interested party.

The beneficiary was admitted to the United States as a nonimmigrant student on December 23, 1978 to attend Spring Hill College. He was subsequently granted an extension of his temporary admission until June 30, 1983. There is no record of any further extension of temporary stay or permission being granted for the beneficiary to transfer schools. Deportation proceedings have not been instituted.

The interested party, J. Robert Belmany, is a United States citizen born in Alabama. He is a partner in a mortuary business in Mobile. The Committee will be further advised

when more detailed information is received from the interested party.

Senator Howell Heflin submitted the following information in support of his bill:

JANUARY 16, 1984.

Hon. ALAN K. SIMPSON,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Immigration and Refugee Policy, Committee on the Judiciary, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR ALAN: In accordance with the Rules of Procedure for private legislation, this letter is submitted on behalf of the private bill for Bassam S. Belmany, S. 796.

Bassam's Alien Registration number is: 582779; his permit number is: 1927681, (issued originally December 5, 1978). His birthdate is: November 20, 1960, in Chanay, Lebanon. Bassam currently lives with his uncle, Bob Belmany, at 2800 Grant Street, Mobile, Alabama 36606. He originally entered the United States on a student visa at New York, New York.

Bassam is presently attending Springhill College in Mobile, Alabama. An excellent student, (reference letters forthcoming) Bassam is planning to attend dental school upon his graduation. Bassam's education is fully funded by his uncle, Bob Belmany of Mobile.

Bassam is a member of the Druz religion, which is presently being persecuted by the Christian Militia in Lebanon. His home village of Chanay has been sealed off by the militia; if he attempts to return he will face certain death. Neighboring villages, including Bahandoon, have been completely destroyed. The foregoing events show that it is extremely dangerous, if not impossible, for Bassam to return to Lebanon at this time or in the foreseeable future. He would like to remain in the United States permanently, as he has no home to return to.

Bassam's college advisors believe that he has a promising career ahead of him and that he will be a talented dentist. Alabama would well use his talents. As Bassam is completely supported by his uncle, he will never be a burden to our taxpayers.

I respectfully request that the Subcommittee at its earliest convenience request the file from the Immigration and Naturalization Service so that members of the Subcommittee can fully evaluate the case.

With kindest regards, I am
Sincerely yours,

HOWELL HEFLIN.

SPRING HILL COLLEGE,
January 20, 1984.

Senator HOWELL T. HEFLIN,
Washington, DC.
(Attention Miss Peggy Mainor).

DEAR SENATOR HEFLIN. A former student of mine, Mr. Bassam Belmany has asked for your help in obtaining an extended or permanent residency in the United States. I would like to speak in his behalf. Mr. Belmany attended Spring Hill College with scholarship assistance. During his stay here he maintained a very good scholastic average and was a model of politeness and propriety. He is now

in post-graduate work at the University of South Alabama. As his academic advisor at Spring Hill I have come to know him well and I believe he is worthy of your help. He will be a credit to our country.

Yours truly,

FRANCIS J. KEARELY, Jr.,
Professor of Chemistry.

Insert in Congressional Record March 11, 1983, p. S 2720:

By Mr. HEFLIN:

S. 796. A bill for the relief of Bassam S. Belmany; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

BASSAM S. BELMANY

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, I rise to introduce a bill for the private relief of Bassam Shaheen Belmany who is the nephew of J. Robert Belmany, an honorable and worthy citizen of this country and resident of Mobile, Ala. This bill would provide Bassam with permanent resident status in the United States.

Bassam now resides in Mobile with his uncle. He came into this country from Lebanon, on a student visa. An excellent student, he attends Springhill College where he was awarded a substantial academic scholarship. He has an exemplary academic record, and intends to go to dental school. His college advisers believe that he has a promising career before him and will be a talented dentist. Indeed, Alabama could well use his talents.

As you well know, the situation in Lebanon today is unstable and in fact, dangerous. But this situation is particularly threatening to Bassam. His religion makes him especially vulnerable. Bassam is a member of the Druze faith, a religious sect which is currently persecuted in Lebanon. Bassam's home village had been sealed off by the Christian Militia, and it is unlikely that he could ever return there, never mind survive.

In short, Bassam Belmany's situation presents extraordinary circumstances which need to be addressed by the passage of this legislation. He has the potential to make an enormous contribution to this country through his profession. He is completely supported by his uncle and will never present a burden to our taxpayers. He has shown initiative and drive through obtaining an academic scholarship to support his education. He cannot return to Lebanon, given the certainty that he will suffer religious persecution. I urge the Congress for favorable passage of this legislation.

Thank you, Mr. President.

By Mr. HEFLIN:

S. 832. A bill for the relief of Bassam S. Belmany; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

RELIEF OF BASSAM S. BELMANY

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, I rise to introduce a bill for the relief of Bassam S. Belmany. This bill would provide Bassam with permanent resident status in the United States.

Bassam now resides in Mobile with his uncle. He came into this country from Lebanon, on a student visa. An excellent student, he attends the University of South Alabama where he was awarded a substantial academic scholarship. He has an exemplary academic record, and plans to attend dental school. His college advisers believe that he has a promising career ahead of him and will be a talented dentist. Indeed, Alabama could well use his talents.

As you all know, the situation in Lebanon today is unstable and in fact, dangerous. The current situation is particularly threatening to Bassam, because he is a member of the Druze faith, a religious sect currently persecuted in Lebanon. Bassam's home village has been sealed off by the Christian Militia, and it is unlikely that he could ever return there.

In short, Bassam Belmany's situation presents extraordinary circumstances which need to be addressed by the passage of this legislation. He has the potential to make an enormous contribution to this country through his profession. He is completely supported by his uncle and will never present a burden to our taxpayers. He has shown initiative and drive through obtaining an academic scholarship to support his education. He cannot return to Lebanon, given the certainty that he will suffer religious persecution. I urge my colleagues to give Mr. Belmany's situation their favorable consideration.

COST

No cost would result from enactment of this bill.

REGULATORY IMPACT STATEMENT

In compliance with paragraph 11(b)(1), rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, it is hereby stated that the committee anticipates that the bill will have no additional direct regulatory impact, inasmuch as it affects just one individual.

The committee, after consideration of all the facts in the case, is of the opinion that the bill (S. 832) should be enacted.

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